Emily Roberts-The Girl Who Changed My Life

On June 7, 2010 I was diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia, one of the worst types of Leukemia. Leukemia is a type of cancer that is in your blood and bone marrow; it is characterized by an abnormal increase in white blood cells. Sadly, this type of Leukemia has a survival rate of 40%. I most likely am not lucky enough to be in that 40%. Yesterday, I was told that I might only have around two months to live.

Currently, I am lying in my hospital bed in room 313 thinking about what I am going to do with the rest of the life I have left. I grabbed a glass of water off my bedside table and my nurse came into my room. Her name is Katherine Jameson and she has been with me since I arrived here at Creekview Memorial Hospital. Another girl came into the room behind Katherine. She looked about my age. “How are you doing today honey? I know you’re feeling a little down since you got the news. This is Emily Roberts, she is going to be volunteering at the hospital all throughout the summer,” said Katherine as she tidied things up around the room.

“Hi Emily, my name is Molly, and I am 15 years old. It is very nice to meet you.” I said in a nervous tone. Emily was a very pretty girl. She had long curly brown hair and big blue eyes. She looked very strong and muscular.

“It’s nice to meet you too Molly, Katherine has told me lots about you,” said Emily.

Emily came to my room frequently over the next few days and we started to become really good friends. She had just moved to South Carolina and didn’t really know anybody other than me. After awhile we had known everything about each other and we were basically best friends.

“Hey Molly, can I ask you something?” said Emily one day out of the blue.

“Sure Em, anything you want to know,” I said as I thought about what she could possibly want to ask me.

“Well, I have been thinking about it and I wanted to know what you wanted to do before you…you know…”

“Before I die? Well, I try not to think about it much. But, there are some things that I have never done that I have always wanted to do. For example, I have never been on a rollercoaster. Oh, and I have never been ice skating and I have never been to the beach. And don’t tell anybody this…but, I don’t know how to ride a bike either.”I said in a sad tone.

“Well, I want you to make the best of the life you have left. So, I want to take you to do all the things you have always wanted to do.”

“Emily, I would love to do all of those things but it’s not that easy for me to get out of here. I don’t know if my mom would let me either. Also, I don’t like going outside the hospital. People always stare at me. Little kids point at me and ask their moms why I don’t have any hair. It’s hard to handle Em!” I remarked.

“I know that all that you have been through in your life has been hard on you. I know that your dad’s death and the effects of the chemotherapy have been the hardest. But, your chemo is over now, and if you want we can go shopping for a head wrap or a scarf or something. You have to believe in yourself Molly. You have to have hope that you will get better,” said Emily.

I thought about what she said and agreed. “Alright, I guess I could use a little fun. But, I would need to ask my mom if it would be okay. She is still devastated about what the doctor told us two weeks ago. But, she likes you and trusts you. I really hope she says it will be okay so that I can enjoy myself.” Emily’s phone rang as I finished my sentence.

“Hello mom! You’re here? I will meet you by the main entrance,” said Emily as she shut the phone. “I have to go Molly. I will talk to my mom about all the things I have planned.”

Emily raced out the door before I could say goodbye. I was so happy that I had a friend like her. Even though we had met last week I felt like we had known each other forever. We have a lot of things in common, and we see each other all day, every day.

The next morning Emily came into my room around ten. She handed me an envelope and I carefully opened it up. Inside were two passes to Albertson’s Boardwalk. On the boardwalk there is an amusement park, games, and a beach nearby!

“Are we going to the boardwalk?” I shouted.

Emily smiled and said, “Yes we are! Our moms talked about it last night and planned everything out. A shuttle is going to pick us up in like 20 minutes. Oh and don’t worry about a bathing suit. Your mom dropped one off at my house. I have it in my bag.” Emily reached into her bag and pulled out a purple and pink striped bikini and handed it to me. I couldn’t believe that she would do this for me.

“Thank you so much Emily. I really appreciate all you have done for me,” I said as I smiled. I went into the bathroom and put on the swimsuit. I couldn’t even remember the last time I had worn a bathing suit. I slipped my t-shirt and shorts over my suit, and found Emily in the main lobby. Emily had a lot of stuff with her. She had a whole bag of stuff, and a cooler!

The shuttle arrived moments later and Emily and I dragged our stuff onto the bus. About 10 minutes later we arrived at the boardwalk. It was a really hot summer day but surprisingly the boardwalk was not crowded. We were happy to get off the bus. The driver smelled like goat cheese. The boardwalk smelled like hot fries, Churros, and soft serve ice cream. Emily and I had decided that we were going to go to the amusement park first. Emily bought a locker to put all of the stuff in.

We got in line at the amusement park entrance and gave the lady our tickets. “Let’s go on Thunder Cloud. It’s the best rollercoaster here,” Emily said pointing towards the huge coaster.

“Sure, but don’t laugh at me if I scream the whole time. I have never been on a rollercoaster before.” I had butterflies in my stomach and I was really nervous. Emily and I got in line and we waited for about 15 minutes. We were up next and I could feel myself shaking. I carefully got into the cart and I made sure that I was strapped in tightly.

“All clear!” shouted the lady that was making sure we were all correctly harnessed. Then, all of the sudden we took off and I screamed at the top of my lungs. I could feel the scarf on my head getting looser. I grabbed onto the handle bar and gripped it as tight as I could. The coaster went up and down and spun around. I started to like the feeling and I let go of the bar and put my hands up like Emily did. The ride finally ended and I really enjoyed it.

Emily and I spent 2 hours riding coasters throughout the park. I loved the thrill. After we rode every coaster in the park twice we decided to go to the beach. Emily got the stuff out of the locker and we walked along the boardwalk to the beach entrance. We got a perfect spot right in front of the ocean. We laid out all of our stuff and put on a whole bottle of sunscreen. I loaded three handfuls of sunscreen on my head. Then, me and Emily looked at each other and ran towards the ocean. I jumped over the first wave but then jumped in like Emily did. I liked how I could swim under the waves and look for shells. I turned around to make sure that no one was touching our stuff. Then, all of the sudden Emily shouted, “Molly! Watch out!” Then, a huge wave hit me and tossed me around under water. I popped my head out of the water and Emily said, “Oh my gosh, you scared the crud out of me.” We both started laughing and got out of the water.

We got back to our spot and Emily handed me a towel and a water bottle. “Thanks Emily, I have had such an amazing day. I really appreciate what you’re doing for me.”I said happily. Emily’s face lit up and a big smile appeared. We laid on the beach for about another 15 minutes. Then, we packed up all of our stuff to meet the shuttle at the boardwalk entrance. We got onto the shuttle and got back to the hospital a short period of time later. Emily and I walked up to my room together.

“My mom will be here soon. So, I am going to wait downstairs. You should get a good rest tonight because I have a lot of stuff planned for tomorrow,” said Emily.

“Thanks again Em! See you tomorrow!” I said happily. Emily left to go meet her mom downstairs. I looked out the window and saw her get into her mom’s car. I then jumped into the shower and after that I went right to sleep.

The next day I woke up bright and early. The sun was shining through my window and it brightened my mood. As I was making my bed my doctor came into my room. “Hello Molly, How are you feeling,” he said nervously.

“I am well. I am just waiting for my friend Emily to arrive. She says she has a surprise for me.”

“Molly, the other doctors and I have decided that we are going to try chemotherapy one more time.”

“You’re kidding me right? We have tried chemo, twice. My hair is finally growing back and I haven’t been getting sick as often lately. Please, please, please don’t do this to me,” I screeched as tears fell from my eyes.

“We will have to discuss this with your mother. But, as a doctor, I know what is best for you. I will talk to your mother tonight.”

When he left the room I wanted to scream. Inside my mind, I knew that nothing could save me. The doctors had found the cancer too late and it is spreading too fast. There is no way that anyone can save me. I wiped the tears from my eyes and Emily came in moments later. I tried to cheer myself up. “I have such a fun day planned for us,” said Emily.

“Hooray!” I said enthusiastically. She handed me a box wrapped in bright green wrapping paper.

“Go ahead, open it,” Emily said. I ripped all the paper of the box and saw a picture of ice skates. “Today, we are going to go ice skating at the place down the street!” I was so excited and so happy. I couldn’t believe that Emily bought ice skates for me. I got out of my bed and gave her a big hug. I got on some clothes and followed Emily downstairs. She carried the ice skates for me. Before we went to the ice skating rink we decided to get some brunch at the café. I got some macaroni and cheese and Emily got a chicken club. We walked to the ice skating rink because it was extremely close to the hospital.

Emily and I walked into the ice skating dome and went to the ticket booth. We both bought our tickets and headed towards the rink. Emily put on her ice skates and then helped me. I finally got mine on and could barely walk to the ice. I stepped onto the ice and held onto the side of the rink. I tried to move, but it was hard. Emily stepped on the ice and I could tell that she knew how to ice skate. “Come on Molly! Give me your hand,” Emily shouted. I grabbed her hand and she gave me some balance. I started to move my feet and actually move.

“Let go! I think I got it,” I said as I slowly skated away. Emily watched in amazement as I started to skate pretty well. I saw her standing on the ice with her mouth wide open.

“Wow, you got the hang of ice skating fast,” said Emily.

“I’ll race you!” I said as I skated away from Emily. She eventually beat me because I fell on my butt. But, that’s okay. We stayed at the ice skating rink for like 3 hours before we decided to go back to the hospital. I hadn’t told Emily, but the whole time we were ice skating, I did not feel very well.

When we got back to the hospital, we went straight up to my room. We played board games in the lounge with some of the other kids. “Thanks for such a great day Emily. It was so much fun!” I shouted.

“Well, the day is not over yet. I have another surprise for you…I’m sleeping over! I am going to sleep at the hospital tonight, in your room with you.”

“REALLY? This is going to be such a fun night!” I said starting to get really excited.

Emily pulled a bag out from under my bag. She started digging through her bag and pulled out a DVD. “I brought the movie Legally Blonde. But, I don’t know if that’s what you want to watch.”

I interrupted Emily and said “I love that movie!” Emily put the movie into the DVD player and cuddled up on the cot that she put next to my bed. Halfway through the movie the fire alarm went off. I thought it was just a drill like we have every month.

“WHAT! AHHH! WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!” screamed Emily.

“Em, don’t worry. I think it’s just a drill. We have a fire drill every month,” I said trying to calm her down.

“I don’t think it’s a drill, I really don’t. I’m going to go ask somebody if it’s a drill.” Emily said.

“Fine, but I am staying here.” Emily ran out of the room. A few minutes passed and I started to get concerned. I got up out of my bed and went outside my room. I walked down the hallway and saw that there was a ton of smoke. I started to scream, “EMILY! EMILY!” I was really nervous. I started to cough and couldn’t stop. I needed to get out of here. I saw Emily running towards me through the smoke. I fell to the floor and hit my head on the ground. All I can remember is Emily picking me up.

When I woke up I was in another hospital. I thought I was dreaming and I kept trying to wake myself up. Then, all of the sudden my mom came into my room. “Molly! Thank God you are alright! No one told me if you were alive until this morning! I spent the whole night praying for you,” she said looking like she was about to cry.

“I…think Emily saved me. I think Emily saved me,” I repeated. All I could remember was Emily’s arms picking me up. “Where is Emily? Is she alright?”

“Molly, Emily didn’t make it. The doctors tried their best to save her. It’s just that she was in the fire for too long. She had lots of smoke in her lungs and she had third degree burns. I’m so sorry Molly.” I could not believe what my mom had just told me.

“NO! NO! EMILY!” I screamed. I didn’t believe it. My best friend had saved my life, my best friend who helped me live my dreams. I spent the whole day in my room. I did not want to talk to anyone. Emily did so much for me. She helped me to live the life that I had always wanted to live. I never asked Emily what she has never done. I never asked Emily what her dreams were. I have to try and live as long as I can for Emily. I need to make sure that I make the best of my life because she took hers to save it.

**Epilogue**

Molly conquered her cancer for Emily. Molly was wrong; the cancer was only spreading slowly through her body. The doctors were able to kill all the cancer cells with 4 months of chemotherapy. Molly lived past her expiration date because she started to believe in herself because of Emily. Today, Molly goes around the United States speaking at schools and telling her story. She also works part time at Creekview Hospital helping children with Leukemia. She frequently stops by Emily Roberts grave and thanks Emily for all that she had done for her.

By- Jenna Brach